

AMENDMENTIn the Specification:

Replacement paragraph [0022] beginning at page 5 of the specification is marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version and is presented below:

[0022] *Test Apparatus* - All of the thermal treatments were conducted in a high purity alumina tube furnace at a temperature of either 850°C or 900°C. During processing the atmosphere was maintained at a constant inlet composition and flow of 3000 cc/min using a MKS 647B Multi-Channel Gas Controller system. Two argon/oxygen mixtures were mixed to produce the correct atmosphere composition. The first mixture was “house” argon with less than 1 ppm oxygen. The second mixture was obtained from a certified premixed cylinder containing argon with 1040 ppm oxygen. The temperature was maintained with an external thermocouple and monitored with an internal thermocouple. Two samples were heat treated together and were held vertically in a specially manufactured holder to ensure uniform surface exposure. At the outlet side of the tube furnace, an Illinois Instruments oxygen analyser, Model 2550 was ~~sued~~ used to monitor the composition of the flowing gas.